

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 8, please replace the paragraph beginning "Figure 1 Phylogenetic tree of Clustal," with the following paragraph:

F1
Figure 1 Phylogenetic tree of Clustal W alignments using reverse transcriptase pol gene sequences: PBCRV PBC retroviral sequence cloned in our laboratory, SMRV Squirrel monkey retrovirus, MPMV Mason-Pfizer monkey virus, HERVK Human Endogenous retrovirus-K, MIAP Murine intracisternal A-type particle, HRV-5 Human retrovirus 5, PSCRV PSC retroviral sequence cloned in our laboratory, HFV Human foamy retrovirus, HIV Human immunodeficiency virus, MSRV Multiple sclerosis retrovirus, MMLV Murine Moloney leukemia virus, HTLV1 Human T-cell leukemia virus-1, HBV hepatitis B virus.

On page 10, please replace the paragraph beginning "The retroviral nucleotides," with the following paragraph:

F2
The retroviral nucleotides of the present invention are described herein. Unless otherwise stated, the term 'retroviral or viral nucleotides or nucleic acid molecules' refers collectively to the sequences described herein. The novel retroviral nucleotides of the present invention include, but are not limited to, (a) novel clones identified in samples from PSC patients:

On page 39, please replace the title of Table 5 beginning "Table 5. The Detection Rate of," with the following title:

F3
Table 5. The Detection Rate of Potential PSC Related Viral cDNA Fragment in Patients with Liver Diseases by RT-PCR and Hybridization

IN THE CLAIMS:

A marked up version of the claims showing the amendments is attached hereto as Exhibit B. Matter that has been deleted from Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 is indicated by brackets and matter that has been added is indicated by underlining.

Cancel Claims 2, 5-6, and 8-10 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7 to read as follows: